

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

DHA-02 /080 W

-----241221 026750 /11

R 240817Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2172

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY LOME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS ABIDJAN 1871

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IV, RH, OAU

SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER USHER ON ZIMBABWE

BEGIN SUMMARY: PRIOR TO DEPARTING FOR OAU MINISTERIAL IN LOME, GOIC FOREIGN MINISTER USHER PUBLISHED ARTICLE ON ZIMBABWE IN DAILY FRATERNITE MATIN. USHER SAID FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS HAVE NOT SIMPLIFIED MATTERS BY SUPPORTING PATRIOTIC FRONT EXCLUSIVELY AND THAT OAU WOULD FIND ITSELF IN SAME CONFUSION OVER ZIMBABWE AS IT HAS OVER ANGOLA. HE PREDICTED, HOWEVER, OAU MINISTERIAL MEETING AT LOME WOULD RATIFY THE DECISION FOLLOWING THE LEAD OF THE OAU LIBERATION COMMITTEE WHICH USHER DESCRIBED AS DOMINATED BY SO-CALLED PROGRESSIVE STATES. END SUMMARY.

1. USHER THOUGHT PROPOSALS MADE BY GREAT BRITAIN THROUGH IVOR RICHARD WERE REALISTIC AND INTELLIGENT. REJECTION OF THEM BY IAN SMITH MEANT AN ADJOURNMENT OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE BUT SHOULD NOT MEAN AN END TO NEGOTIATIONS AS THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA WAS SERIOUS AND URGENT. USHER LAID STRESS ON ROLE OF GREAT BRITAIN AS LEGAL
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ADMINISTRATIVE POWER IN SEARCHING FOR SOLUTION. US BY CONTRAST WAS NOT RPT NOT MENTIONED IN ARTICLE.

2. USHER SAID FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS' DECISION TO GIVE EXCLUSIVE RECOGNITION TO NKOMO-MUGABE PATRIOTIC FRONT UNDER "PRETEXT" THAT MUGABE IS HEAD OF GUERRILLAS WAS ARBITRARY, AND WOULD LEAD TO CONFUSION EVEN THOUGH THE

OAU MINISTERIAL AT LOME WAS LIKELY TO RATIFY THE DECISION.

3. USHER CALLED IAN SMITH'S TRUMPETING OF THE COMMUNIST MENACE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA FRAUDULENT. HE DANGER IS NOT COMMUNISM BUT APARTHEID AND THE DESIRE OF THE WHITE MINORITY TO MAINTAIN HEGEMONY. IF SMITH WOULD ACCEPT A PEACEFUL TRANSITION TO MAJORITY RULE THE DOOR WOULD BE CLOSED TO COMMUNISM.

4. USHER NOTED THE PARADOX THAT WHITE INTRANSIGENCE COULD BRING ABOUT EXACTLY WHAT THE WHITES SAY THEY FEAR, NAMELY COMMUNIST INTERVENTION. A VICTORY BY FORCE, SAID USHER, FOLLOWING ON THE "INCREDIBLE" CUBAN INCURSION (INTO ANGOLA) MAKES ONE WONDER WHETHER THIS IS THE APPLICATION OF THE RESOLUTION TAKEN NEARLY SEVEN YEARS AGO AT THE TRI-CONTINENTAL CONFERENCE IN HAVANA CALLING FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF MODERATE AFRICAN REGIMES BY FORCE OF ARMS.
STEARNS

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Litigation History:
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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TAGS: PFOR, IV, RH, OAU, (USHER, ARSENE ASSOUAN)
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